



'It's a great cause. It's something that is a very healthy competition for both schools.'

Gena Runnion, Director of Greek Life on the USC, Clemson Blood Drive

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## Take advantage of Meet Your SG Day

This Wednesday, USC's Student Government is hosting its annual Meet Your Student Government Day. This event is a way for Student Government to show the student body all of the projects and legislation Student Government has involved itself in this year.

This event will take place all day on Greene Street and is a great way for students to see what Student Government does. What it does is often overlooked by the student body, and this is a good way for students to really learn about and gain an understanding of Student Government.

USC's President and board of trustees have put forth an ambitious plan for Carolina going into the next millennium. This is the time for students to see how Student Government is acting on behalf of the student body in regards to USC's new vision.

Issues such as parking versus green space are becoming hot issues on campus with students. How is Student Government approaching this issue and other issues that will directly impact USC students?

Not only will you get a chance to meet your Student Government representatives, but you will also get to know students who might be considering running for office next February. By going to Meet Your Student Government Day on Wednesday, you will not only get a chance to meet your current Student Government, but you will also get the chance to get informed on potential candidates for office next year.

## Bi-Lo changes image to make more money

The Devine street Bi-Lo will reopen this Wednesday as an official Gamecock Bi-Lo. It has traded in its cow mascot for the gamecock and has changed its colors to garnet and black.

This reopening ceremony is intended to raise student awareness of the Bi-Lo so students will feel more inclined to shop at a store that outwardly supports their school. It's a simple marketing ploy to raise their number of shoppers.

While we obviously condone school spirit, we don't necessarily like it when it's being used to make a quick and easy buck. Sure, the Bi-Lo might have put a lot of money into redesigning their store, but it was only to lure more Gamecock fans, particularly students. An obvious question is why a better location wasn't chosen for a Gamecock Bi-Lo. This store is out of the way for students who live on and around campus. There is no real reason for students to venture out to this location, aside from the fact that it's a pro-USC store.

Why is the university supporting a store that is so far away from campus? This insists USC students choose their store over others. Why? Will the university be getting any benefits from this store, and if so, will any of it directly benefit the students?

### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



### ELECTION 2000

## Florida is now the Wanker State

Before I begin another can-tankerous diatribe, I would like to say to all of you who read my last column and decided to vote anyway, I told you so.



**Nathan White** is a senior political science and history major. He writes every Monday. He can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

This voting stuff is madness! Madness! Okay, let's talk about this little election that's finished. Do we have a President yet? No, of course not. This crap should have been over Tuesday night, but we have a little problem. That problem is Florida. My goodness, the most powerful man in the world will be determined by a bunch of backwater chumps whose favorite football team plays in a "swamp."

The problem is these Floridians aren't really sure who they actually picked to be our next President. This is due to the fact that a bunch of "citizens" in Palm Beach got "confused" with whom they were voting for. Apparently they mistook the big GIANT arrow next to Pat Buchanan's name as an indicator that they were voting for Al Gore. I would expect

nothing less from an Al Gore supporter. I just knocked 50 million people! Wow. That's gotta be a record or something.

Now they are re-counting the votes, and because I saw a problem with this, I decided to go down to Florida this weekend and see what the heck is going on there. I personally talked with some of my colleagues and discussed the situation. These two residents of the Orlando area asked not to have their first names printed for personal reasons. My colleagues, Mr. Mouse and Mr. Duck, told me they don't even know what's going on. Frankly, they said, they're just plain confused. What is with all this confusion stuff in Florida?

Enough questions. It's time for answers and who better to give them than myself? I mean, come on, am I not always right? I think my last column is proof of that. Here's how it's gonna be. Florida loses the "privilege" of voting for president from here on out. I think it's pretty clear they can't handle this little responsibility.

We'll make Florida a commonwealth like Puerto Rico, where Puerto Ricans are US citizens who don't vote for President and don't pay federal taxes. The only difference is that we'll make Florida pay taxes because in their confused status, they won't even notice.

The problem with this is we will no longer have 50 states, and we all know how nice and round that number is. Therefore, we will make Puerto Rico a state. At

least Puerto Rico doesn't have a bunch of rednecks in its northern half and it doesn't have a bunch of whiny Cubans crying about some dude named Elian in its southern half. Whatever happened to that wanker anyway? He probably got confused and voted for Pat Buchanan too.

I can't believe we didn't catch this sooner. We should have known a Floridian wasn't up to the challenge of picking a circle that has a GIANT arrow pointing to it from their preferred candidate's name. Once again, I must insist we set up a system of government that disenfranchises everyone but cool people like me. If we did that, we wouldn't have this Florida fiasco because nobody in Florida is cool.

If there ever was a better time to set up a despotic regime in America than now, I can't think of it right now. The best way to set up this system is by choosing a leader much in the same way the Publisher's Clearing House chooses its winner.

Two things come to mind when I think of Florida. First, that's where the Backstreet Boys are from, and second, the United Popular Front of Wankers (UPFW) has its headquarters in Palm Beach County (big surprise). Also, while I was in Florida this weekend one thing did stick out quite clearly in my mind. Everybody was riding around on scooters.

Hmm. I think I'll leave you to think about that one yourself.

### LETTERS

#### Reader questions columnist's fear of Bush

To the Editor:

It is so refreshing to see someone who is so enraptured in dislike of one candidate that he is perfectly willing to ignore the problem areas of another that he greatly prefers. Mr. Johnson indeed shows such a bias towards Gore, it is a small wonder indeed that he has not flown down to Florida to hand-recount the Palm Beach votes himself.

Now, I myself cannot understand a "fear of Bush", for the simple reason that I had no fear of Reagan. Neither man strikes me as the highest of intellectuals, but rather as men smart enough to rely upon the opinions of advisors who are more well versed in matters that the potential President may not be. This is what advisors are for. I for one doubt the credentials of any one man who claims to be an expert on everything, and especially one who claims to have invented the Internet. You see, Mr. Johnson? Gore is hardly without his own verbal gaffes. At least with Bush, ignorance can be claimed. But after eight years of hanging out with President Clinton, you'd think Al Gore would be a better liar. Or at least a more circumspect one.

This is why I have a "fear of Gore". It really seems to me that the man is physically unable to stop lying. Or if not lie, embellish the truth. Or misquote his facts. His attempts to endear himself to the peo-

ple of America, if not outright two-faced lying, are the little white lies which can be even worse, especially if one cannot stop making them. And as for Gore being more straightforward and honest than Clinton, it hardly seems possible that he could be less honest. But then, comparing Gore to Clinton in any way, shape or form may not be the best of comparisons to make. Finally, I would challenge your claim to Bush's being a brat. He's a grown man who has been Governor of Texas. Yes, he has gotten family support, but considering who his family is, is it really that shocking? And I'd rather have a brat than a liar. At least with a brat, you know where you stand. Who knows what a liar will say?

**Patrick Gearman**  
Alumni, College of Engineering, 1996  
Alumni, College of Math and Science, 2000

#### Student suggests USC obtain higher image of success

To the Editor:

It is said that to be successful, one must project an image of success. The same theory holds true for this University. As I walk through this campus, I observe two things that I deem to be detrimental to the public image of this University. First is the constant blaring of car stereos. Second is the commercial expos held in front of and

behind the Russell House.

President Palms often speaks of a goal for USC to be included in the AAU. He has made great strides in emulating AAU schools like the University of Virginia and UNC-Chapel Hill. I have been to the campuses of both these fine institutions and can attest that they do not have commercial carnivals going on during classes, nor can one hear the bass of car stereos on every corner of campus, 24 hours a day. I am sure that at other elite schools like Stanford, Harvard and Yale, the scene is similar. One thing that the nation's top universities have in common is this: an atmosphere of civility and scholarship. As I walk through USC I often feel that I am in a rap video or at an adventure theme park, not at a distinguished University.

These obstacles are quick-fixes (e.g. enforce a campus-wide noise ordinance, and simply discontinue the commercial expos), and should be rectified as soon as possible. They are small problems with simple solutions that will make a world of difference for USC.

Lastly, I would like to commend President Palms for the progress he has made for USC in my four and a half years here. We should all be grateful to have a man of such vision and foresight leading our University into the 21st century. Thank you, President Palms.

**Wade Zirkle**  
Political Science Senior

### ELECTION 2000

## Freedom should be our goal

Tuesday afternoon, after voting in my hometown, I drove in dusk down the Interstate. The classic rock radio station was playing the Bush campaign's altered version of Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop," Clinton's 1992 campaign song. It cut off mid-song, inserted a brief soundbite from Clinton's testimony to the Grand Jury regarding Monica Lewinsky and segued into the Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again." I admit, despite my dislike of everything Bush stands for, this was a clever and accurate lampoon. Yet, I changed the station. It was Election Day, and I had felt nervous since morning, suspecting people might be conned by the Texas Governor's populist rhetoric. I punched button after button. The travesty was playing on every station in range; I had a feeling the Clinton era was over.



**Jennie Lightweis** is a senior English major. She can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

What would the end of the Clinton-Gore Era mean? At the time, I thought it wouldn't mean much. People say "liberal" and "conservative" as though they are polar opposites, when they are modifications of the same system. Whoever is President will continue with oppressive free trade agreements, allow the American worker to be laid off in favor of slave and sweatshop labor abroad and in Mexico, extend the death penalty to widespread use for federal crimes and continue the United States' "special relationships" abroad. Their major differences, abortion and the budget surplus, seemed small when one realizes that there are various forms of democracy at work elsewhere in the world.

Every year, the United Nations does a so-called Freedom Index, in which they rank the freest countries in the world. America is usually in the top ten, but not always. In Amsterdam, they have the right to use mind altering chemicals in any way they see fit. In Canada, they have universal healthcare. In America, we're stuck with "democratic" capitalism and the Electoral College, by which a candidate who loses the popular vote can become president.

Freedom should be our goal and the goal of our presidential candidates, but only Al Gore seems to be working toward it in this Floridian brouhaha. The two candidates have finally distinguished themselves from one another.

Republicans argue that the butterfly ballot is clear and that people who made errors should realize the election process is imperfect. They are on a slippery slope to deciding who can and can't vote. Old people? Those with poor eyesight? The practically and intellectually challenged? "Let them flounder," Bush seems to say. "The process is imperfect."

When racial intimidation in Florida is mentioned, they are even more evasive. There have been reports of state troopers positioned at the polls, turning away African-American men by alleging they have criminal records. There have also been stories of A.M.E. churches, the polling places of the communities, being conveniently skipped when the election workers were picking up ballots. Stories abound of minorities being turned away, with election workers claiming they had run out of ballots.

And how does Bush's team respond to this? They suggest those pesky Democrats are "distorting and politicizing" the process. Bush's team consists mainly of his father's old cabinet members—James Baker, John Sununu and the like—parts of an administration voted out because most people believed they were out of touch with the country. As the events in Florida unfold, it seems clear that the 1992 election was accurate in its mandate.

I saw a Bush crony on television claiming all of these complaints are the result of "agitation" by the Democrats who had converged on Florida. It reeked of Jim Crow-era racist rhetoric—agitators from the North bringing the promise of civil justice and stirring up a population that had been abused by the system.

How should the nation deal with this challenge? Bring in the United Nations and let them monitor a new election in Florida. They are more objective than Jeb Bush or any county election commissioner. After that is over, let's make sure this is the last year the Electoral College is used. We cannot afford a president without a popular mandate.

### ABOUT US

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Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 338. E-mail submissions must include telephone number for confirmation and should be sent to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Anonymous letters will not be published. Photos are required for guest columns and can be provided by the submitter.  
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